

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) An interlabial pad having a ~~substantially planar shape~~, a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, comprising:

an absorbent body for absorbing body fluids;

a surface side sheet and a rear surface side sheet enclosing said absorbent body;

a ~~sheet portion~~ holding sheet member lapped on the rear surface side sheet, ~~the holding sheet member having bonded portions of the rear surface side sheet provided near each of two longitudinal surrounding ends of the interlabial pad and a pair of unbonded portions located at a rear surface side of the interlabial pad on left and right side edges near a central area along a longitudinal axis of the interlabial pad;~~

~~bonded sheet portions of the rear surface side sheet provided at the neighborhood of both longitudinal surrounding ends of the interlabial pad;~~

~~a pair of unbonded sheet portions located at the rear surface side of the interlabial pad on left and right side edges in the central area of the direction along the longitudinal axis of the interlabial pad;~~

a first fingertip insert opening formed by one of the pair of unbonded portions and arranged between the rear surface side sheet and the holding sheet member;

a second fingertip insert opening formed by the other of the pair of unbonded portions and arranged between the rear surface side sheet and the holding sheet member;

~~a pair of fingertip insert openings at the rear surface side of the interlabial pad, the pair of fingertip insert openings being provided along the unbonded sheet portions and symmetrically with respect to the longitudinal axis for pinching the sheet portion; and~~

a folding guide element along the longitudinal axis provided to form a convex protruding area linearly and continuously over the entire length of the longitudinal axis when the holding sheet member sheet portion is pinched via the first and second pair of fingertip insert openings.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, wherein the folding guide element is comprised of any of a broken line, a cut line, and a compression line.

20. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, wherein the interlabial pad has a size between 60 and 150 mm in the longitudinal direction of the longitudinal axis and a size of between 10 and 60 mm in a lateral direction, and the first and second fingertip insert opening each have a width of between 20 and 35 mm provided at a line symmetry position with respect to the longitudinal axis ~~a size of the width of the fingertip insert opening is not less than 20mm.~~

21. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, wherein a size of the depth of each of the first and second fingertip insert openings [[opening]] is not less than 15mm.

22. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, wherein the holding sheet member ~~sheet portion~~ has a size not less than 80% in respect of a length size of the lateral direction of the interlabial pad.

23. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, wherein the holding sheet member ~~sheet portion~~ has color, chromaticity and pattern different from those of the opposite side of the interlabial pad to the body side.

24. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 17, further comprising a long protruding area formed linearly and continuously over the entire length [[along]] the longitudinal axis, wherein in using the pad, each fingertip of two fingers of the wearer is respectively inserted into one opening of the first and second ~~pair of~~ fingertip insert openings, and thereafter the pad is folded at the longitudinal axis to be subject to use in a condition in which the long protruding area is further projected.

25. (currently amended) [[An]] The interlabial pad according to claim 24, wherein the long protruding area is formed by [[the]] unbonded [[sheet]] portions of the holding sheet member provided in proximity to the longitudinal ends of the interlabial pad and folded along the longitudinal axis.

wherein the interlabial pad is contained such that the pair of fingertip insert openings are positioned in proximity to an unsealed portion of the wrapping container.

wherein the interlabial pad is folded in a mountain folded shape toward a body side along the longitudinal axis and is contained in the wrapping container.

28. (canceled)